COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (currently amended): A signal processing apparatus comprising:

a plurality of input ports that receive signals from a plurality of external devices;

~~a control signal transmitting device that transmits control signals to the external devices;~~

a plurality of output ports that transmit control signals to said plurality of external devices;

a plurality of input channels to which signals are inputted from the external devices~~are input signals from respective ones of the external devices associated with respective ones of said input ports when the respective ones of said input ports are connected to the respective ones of the external devices~~;

a plurality of predetermined operating elements associated with respective ones of said input channels~~, said predetermined operating elements being capable of controlling the external devices transmitting the control signals from said control signal transmitting device~~;

~~a connection state setting device~~ an input patch that sets connections between said input ports and said input channels; ~~and~~

setting means for setting correspondence between said input and said output ports; and

transmission control means that performs, when any of said operating elements is operated, control such that the control signal is transmitted from the output port that correspond to the input port connected to the input channel that correspond to the operated operating element

~~a control target determining device that determines one of the external devices to be controlled by each of said predetermined operating elements based on the connections set by said connection state setting device~~.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A signal processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~connection state setting device~~input patch is capable of changing the connections between said input ports and said input channels~~, and~~

~~wherein in a first mode, said control target determining device selects one of the external devices to be controlled by each of said predetermined operating elements based on the connections set by said connection state setting device, and in a second mode, when said connection state setting device changes the connections, said control target determining device selects one of the external devices to be controlled by each of said predetermined operating elements, that was selected before said connection state setting device changes the connections~~.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): A signal processing apparatus according to ~~claim 3~~claim 1, further comprising a display that displays a screen for prompting an output setting for each of said input ports ~~when said control target determining device selects the external device to be controlled by each of said predetermined operating elements~~.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A signal processing apparatus comprising:

a plurality of input ports that receive signals from a plurality of external devices;

~~a control signal transmitting device that transmits control signals to the external devices;~~

a plurality of output ports that transmit control signals to said plurality of external devices;

a plurality of input channels to which ~~are input~~ signals are respectively inputted from ~~respective ones of~~ the external devices associated with respective ones of said input ports ~~when the respective ones of said input ports are connected to the respective ones of the external devices~~;

a plurality of predetermined operating elements associated with respective ones of said input channels~~, said predetermined operating elements being capable of controlling the external devices transmitting the control signals from said control signal transmitting device~~;

~~a connection state setting device~~an input patch that sets connections between said input ports and said input channels; ~~and~~

setting means for setting correspondence between at least one pair of input port and output port and between at least one pair of input channel and output port;

a mode setting device that selectively sets either one of a first mode in which one of the output ports from which the control signal is to be transmitted is determined on an input port basis and a second mode in which one of the output ports from which the control signal is to be transmitted is determined n an input channel basis; and

transmission control means that performs, when any of said operating elements is operated in a state where the first mode is set, control such that the control signal is transmitted from the output port which is made to correspond to the input port connected to the input channel corresponding to the operated operating elements, said transmission control means performing,

when any of said operating elements is operated in a state where the second mode is set, control such that the control signal is transmitted from the output port which is made to correspond to the input channel corresponding to the operated operating element

~~a mode setting device that selectively sets a first mode in which one of the external devices to be controlled by each of said predetermined operating elements is selected based on the connections set by said connection state setting device, and a second mode in which said input channels are associated with arbitrary ones of the external devices and one of the external devices associated with one of the input channels corresponding to one of the predetermined operating elements that is operated is selected as an external device to be controlled by the operated predetermined operating element~~.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A signal processing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a display that displays a screen, ~~and~~

-wherein the display displays a screen for prompting an output setting for each of the input ports if said mode setting device sets the first mode, and displays a screen for prompting an output setting for each of the input channels if said mode setting device sets the second mode.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A computer readable medium containing a control program executable by a computer to control a signal processing apparatus comprising a plurality of input ports that receive signals from a plurality of external devices, a plurality of output ports that transmit control signals to said plurality of external devices; ~~a control signal transmitting device that transmits control signals to the external devices~~, a plurality of input channels to which ~~are input~~ signals are inputted from ~~respective ones of~~ the external devices ~~associated with respective ones of said input ports when the respective ones of said input ports are connected to the respective ones of the external devices~~, and a plurality of predetermined operating elements associated with respective ones of said input channels~~, said predetermined operating elements being capable of controlling the external devices transmitting the control signals from said control signal transmitting device~~, the program ~~comprising~~causing the computer to perform the steps of:

~~a connection state setting module for~~ setting connections between said input ports and said input channels; ~~and~~

setting correspondence between the input ports and the output ports; and

performing, when any of said operating elements is operated, control such that the control signal is transmitted from the output port that correspond to the input port connected to the input channel that correspond to the operated operating element

~~a control target determining module for determining determines one of the external devices to be controlled by each of said predetermined operating elements based on the connections set by said connection state setting module~~.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A computer readable medium containing a control program executable by a computer to control a signal processing apparatus comprising a plurality of input ports that receive signals from a plurality of external devices, a plurality of output ports that transmit control signals to said plurality of external devices~~a control signal transmitting device that transmits control signals to the external devices~~, a plurality of input channels to which ~~are input~~ signals are respectively inputted from ~~respective ones of~~ the external devices associated with respective ones of said input ports ~~when the respective ones of said input ports are connected to the respective ones of the external devices~~, and a plurality of predetermined operating elements associated with respective ones of said input channels~~, said predetermined operating elements being capable of controlling the external devices transmitting the control signals from said control signal transmitting device~~, the program ~~comprising~~causing the computer the perform the steps of:

~~a connection state setting module for~~ setting connections between said input ports and said input channels; ~~and~~

setting correspondence between at least one pair of input port and output port and between at least one pair of input channel and output port;

selectively setting either one of a first mode in which one of the output ports from which the control signal is to be transmitted is determined on an input port basis and a second mode in which one of the output ports from which the control signal is to be transmitted is determined n an input channel basis;

performing, when any of said operating elements is operated in a state where the first mode is set, control such that the control signal is transmitted from the output port which is made to

correspond to the input port connected to the input channel corresponding to the operated operating elements; and

when any of said operating elements is operated in a state where the second mode is set, transmitting control signal from the output port which is made to correspond to the input channel corresponding to the operated operating element

~~a mode setting module for selectively setting a first mode in which one of the external devices to be controlled by each of said predetermined operating elements is selected based on the connections set by said connection state setting module, and a second mode in which said input channels are associated with arbitrary ones of the external devices and one of the external devices associated with one of the input channels corresponding to one of the predetermined operating elements that is operated is selected as an external device to be controlled by the operated predetermined operating element~~.

Claim 10 (new): The signal processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

input port selecting means that selects the input port connected to the input channel corresponding to the operated operating element.

Claim 11 (new): The signal processing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

input port selecting means that selects the input port connected to the input channel corresponding to the operating element operated in a state that the first mode is set; and

input channel selecting means that selects the input channel corresponding to the operating element operated in a state that the second mode is set.